

# Deaths

**Notice:** Deaths in year 2001 were coded using the new ICD-10 coding system. (see [Technical Notes](#) page 144)

There were 24,590 resident deaths recorded in Kansas during 2001, a decrease of 0.4 percent from the 2000 total of 24,676. ([Table 35](#))

Republic, Elk and Smith counties had the highest five-year (1997-2001) county death rates of 17.6, 17.3, and 17.1 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. Riley, Douglas, and Finney counties had the lowest five-year death rates of 4.7, 5.3, and 5.4 deaths per 1,000 population respectively. ([Table 35](#), [Figure 30](#))

Belleville, Eureka, and Neodesha had the highest five-year city death rates (1997-2001) of 27.4, 22.5, and 20.1 respectively. Olathe, Lawrence, and Shawnee experienced the lowest five-year city death rates of 4.6, 4.7, and 5.3 respectively. ([Table 36](#))

The Kansas death rate in 2001 was 9.1 deaths per 1,000 population, which was 4.6 percent higher than the estimated U.S. rate of 8.7 deaths per 1,000 population. ([Figure 31](#))

The Kansas age-adjusted death rate per 1,000 standard U.S. 2000 population has been consistently below that of the U.S. during the 1990s. ([Table 38](#), [Figure 32](#))

The state's 2001 age-adjusted death rate for males (10.3) was 45.1 percent higher than the rate of 7.1 for females. ([Table 38](#))

The average age at death of Kansas residents in 2001 was 74.2 years, a 2.1 percent increase from the average age at death of 72.7 years in 1991. ([Figure 33](#), [Table 39](#))

The average age at death for the white population in 2001 was 75.0 years, over eleven years older than that of the black population, whose average age at death was 63.2 years. ([Table 40](#))

The two leading causes of death in Kansas in 2001, heart disease and malignant neoplasms, had average ages at death of 79.2 and 71.8 years respectively. Atherosclerosis, with an average age at death of 86.1 years, had the highest average age at death of any of the leading causes of death. ([Table 43](#))

The average age at death for male unintentional injury victims for 1991 and 2001 was 44.1 and 46.2 respectively, while for females the average age was 52.7 and 58.3 years respectively. For this time period, the average age at death increased for female unintentional injury victims 10.6 percent while for male unintentional injury victims it increased 4.8 percent. ([Table 43](#))

The cause-specific death rate for Alzheimer's Disease in Kansas was 23.8 deaths per 100,000 population in 2001. The rate for females (32.4) was more than twice as high as the rate for males (14.9). ([Table 43](#))

## Deaths (Cont.)

The cancer death rate for 2001 was 201.5 deaths per 100,000 population, 2.0 percent lower than the rate of 205.5 in 1991. ([Table 43](#), [Table 44](#))

In 2001, the unintentional injury death rate was 44.2 deaths per 100,000 population, 16.0 percent higher than the rate of 38.1 in 1991. ([Table 43](#), [Table 44](#))

The age-adjusted death rate for the leading cause of death, heart disease, was 225.8, and for cancer, the second leading cause of death, the age-adjusted death rate was 194.1 per 100,000 standard U.S. 2000 population. Together, these two causes accounted for almost 50 percent of all Kansas resident deaths. ([Table 44](#))

Heart disease reached a high of 393.4 deaths per 100,000 population in 1973 and gradually declined to 248.3 deaths per 100,000 population in 2001. Conversely, cancer rates steadily increased from 140.6 to 207.1 deaths per 100,000 population from 1956 to 1996, but have declined since 1996, to 201.5 in 2001. ([Figure 34](#))

In 2001, Kansans died from cerebrovascular disease at slightly more than half the rate of forty years ago, with the death rates for this disease going from 126.5 in 1961 to 68.4 in 2001. The death rate for unintentional injury also declined, going from 57.7 in 1961 to 44.2 in 2001, a 23.4 percent decrease. ([Figure 34](#))

In 2001, unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death for Kansas residents 1-44 years of age. ([Figure 35](#))

In 2001, cancer of the respiratory and intrathoracic organs, digestive organs and breast were the leading causes of cancer deaths in women. ([Table 46](#))

The dominant occupations for deaths due to unintentional injuries, suicides and homicides were operators, fabricators and laborers. ([Table 50](#))

Mortality in Kansas was responsible for 193,043 years of potential life lost in 2001. Cancer was the second leading cause of death in Kansas, but accounted for the most years of potential life lost (42,510). Unintentional injuries represented nearly two times the years of potential life lost among men (21,762 years) compared to women (10,975 years). ([Table 52](#), [Figure 36](#))